

CONGRESS.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1852.

IN SENATE.

Mr. McRAE presented the credentials of the Hon. WALKER BROOKS, elected by the Legislature of Mississippi to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon. H. S. FORT, who were read; and the oath prescribed by law having been administered to Mr. BROOKS, he took his seat in the Senate.

Memorials were presented by Messrs. GWIN, MASON, FISH, WADE, DAVIS, and SOULE.

AMERICAN CEMETERY IN MEXICO.

Mr. MASON, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to which was referred the President's message relating to the appropriation for the purchase of a cemetery for the remains of officers and soldiers killed or who have died in Mexico, reported a bill appropriating a sum of money for the interment of officers and soldiers who died in Mexico in the American cemetery near the city of Mexico.

Mr. M. asked that the bill might have its second reading at once, and be considered. From the documents accompanying the message it was found that the appropriation heretofore made was insufficient; and that, to carry out the object of the original appropriation, some three thousand dollars more would be required, and which was provided for in the bill before the Senate.

No objection being made, the bill was considered as in Committee of the Whole, and no amendment having been proposed, it was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

EXPENSES OF M. KOSSUTH.

The following resolution, heretofore offered by Mr. SEWARD, coming up for consideration:

Resolved, That the expenses incurred in the reception and entertainment of Louis Kossuth and suite, during their late visit to the capital by invitation of Congress, be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate, when approved by the Committee of Reception, to an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars.

Mr. MASON took exception to the wording of the resolution, as it that the (Kossuth) came here at the invitation of the Senate, and as far as the Senate was concerned, it was not a matter of expense to the Government; and he was unwilling, therefore, that it should appear on the record as by the invitation of the Senate. He acknowledged his readiness to give the resolution its support provided it was made a joint one.

Mr. SEWARD, in reply, said that the matter was not a matter of expense, but a matter of honor, and that it was a matter of honor to the Senate to pay the expenses of the reception of Kossuth, and that it was a matter of honor to the Senate to pay the expenses of the reception of Kossuth, and that it was a matter of honor to the Senate to pay the expenses of the reception of Kossuth.

Mr. CASS could not vote for the resolution in its present shape, and argued in favor of its receiving the joint action of the two Houses.

Mr. BADGER, though totally opposed to the whole matter of reception of Kossuth, agreed that it was their duty to pay the amount from the contingent fund of the Senate, inasmuch as the Senate was the first to act in the matter.

Mr. BORDLAND wished the subject postponed, inasmuch as the Senate had not yet expressed a wish to speak when the subject came up.

Mr. SHIELDS was opposed to delay, and wished the matter decided at once one way or the other. He contended that the invitation was a Senatorial act. The Executive had been called on, but had refused to receive Kossuth, and had recommended the course which the committee had pursued. The committee had recommended that the Executive should receive Kossuth, and that the Senate should pay the expenses of the reception of Kossuth.

The debate was continued alternately by Messrs. PRATT, SHIELDS, BADGER, BORDLAND, CASS, UPHAM, MASON, CLARKE, MANGUM, ATCHISON, and others.

When the question was taken on Mr. BORDLAND's motion to postpone, and decided in the negative without a count.

Mr. CASS then moved to amend the resolution so as to make it a joint one, giving his reasons for the change.

The debate was further continued on the motion to amend by Messrs. CASS, SEWARD, RUSK, DAVIS, BADGER, PRATT, SOULE, and others.

When the question was taken by yeas and nays and decided in the negative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Bayard, Borden, Bradbury, Brodhead, Chase, Clarke, Davis, Doolittle, Gwin, King, McKee, Mason, Morton, Pratt, Rusk, and Soule.

NAYS—Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Bell, Brooks, Chase, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Fish, Hamilton, James, Jones of Iowa, Jones of Tennessee, Mangum, Seward, Shields, Smith, Soule, Sumner, Underwood, Wade, and others.

The question was then taken on the adoption of the resolution, and decided in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Bayard, Bell, Bradbury, Brodhead, Brooks, Chase, Davis, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Fish, Hamilton, James, Jones of Iowa, Jones of Tennessee, Mangum, Seward, Shields, Smith, Soule, Sumner, Underwood, Wade, and others.

Mr. MASON moved to dispense with the special order, for the purpose of going into Executive session; which motion led to some discussion.

Mr. CASS, being entitled to the floor, was ready to proceed at once on the consideration of the Senate.

The motion of Mr. MASON finally prevailed, and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business, and after some time spent therein the doors were re-opened and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. CARTER, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the report of the Committee on the petition of the State of Hampshire, in the chair, and resumed the consideration of the special order, it being a bill to encourage agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and all other branches of industry, by granting to every man who is the head of a family and a citizen of the United States a homestead in the public domain, upon condition of occupancy and cultivation of the same for the term therein prescribed.

Mr. MARSHALL, of California, remarked that it was not his purpose to discuss the special order, though it was a measure in which he took a great deal of interest, and which he believed very important to the country.

But there had been delivered upon the floor of the House by the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky, (Mr. BRECKENRIDGE), a speech containing sentiments wholly different from those which he entertained, and from all the conclusions and reasonings of which he was bound to dissent, as well as to disbelieve in all its insinuations, so gravely put forth as matters of fact. To this speech he was bound by many circumstances to make some response. Although there was not a member of the House more unwilling than himself to consume unnecessarily the time of the House, and who deprecated more than any other man the introduction of such a subject, so long as there was a great measure of public policy pending, so long as there was a single law that should be passed or acted upon; so long as there was a single person urging a claim against the Government which had not been adjudicated. But he did not intend that gentlemen who differed with him should be allowed to allow an attack upon him to be the favorite of the Union, and upon those principles which he believed to be the life-blood of American democracy, should go forth with his endorsement.

It had been prophesied by one of the most learned, acute, sagacious, and thoughtful of all foreign commentators on the American Constitution and its institutions, that the very thing which was now happening would happen in the Congress of the United States; that it would cease to discharge its constitutional functions as the legislative body of the country, and that it would become, what it has not yet become, but what he feared it approached, a mere jangling, dissident, factional, ill-balanced caucus of Presidential electors.

The State of California, which he represented, was a great result of Democratic principles, and was the very incarnation of American progress. The people of that country owed their existence to the very doctrine which the gentleman from Kentucky, in the whole course of his remarks, deprecated.

There had come from the people of California a universal expression of opinion in favor of Judge Douglas as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, and he would not represent his people if he were to allow an attack upon him to be the favorite of the Union, and upon those principles which he believed to be the life-blood of American democracy, should go forth with his endorsement.

Mr. CASS, of Ohio, followed, and spoke an hour in favor of the bill under consideration. He thought that its adoption would do more for the interest and welfare of the Government, more for the happiness and prosperity of the people, than any bill that had ever passed the House.

The committee rose and reported progress.

And the House adjourned.

must admire, though the likeness was not as perfect as the artist could have made it under other circumstances, (Mr. M.) would have had nothing to say. But, in noticing the articles in the Democratic Review, the gentleman, although he had denounced them, had not denied any fact, direct or by implication, contained therein. Mr. BRECKENRIDGE replied that in general terms he had pronounced the statements in the February number untrue, and he now substituted a general for any particular denial.

Mr. MARSHALL remarked that that was an affirmation of what he had said; for the gentleman did not controvert the reasoning of the gentleman, nor did he dispute any of its facts, but said that the article was a slander and gross misrepresentation. In connection with the denunciation of the editor and the article, the gentleman most adroitly intimated that Judge Douglas was responsible for the course of the magazine. This insinuation was very cleverly and subtly refuted by the gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. RICHARDSON). Whether its effect had been done away remained to be seen. The motive of the gentleman from Kentucky in making his speech was as clear as the light of day, and every body could tell the precise course of consultation and agreement which that gentleman pursued. The gentleman from Kentucky, in the principles of all those candidates whom the gentleman characterized as the tried and standard men of the party. It was a doctrinal article, eminently so. It attacked the principles of those who were denominated, and correctly enough, "old fogies." What a tribute, and how richly deserved, to the President, to the Democratic party, and he was obliged to admit, what he wished to Heaven he could deny, that many of these "old fogies" had a good many active and energetic friends, drawn to their support by State pride, the patronage of the President, and not individually, yet collectively, there was quite a number of them. Yet the gentleman from Kentucky, who from his instincts and age ought to be a friend of progress, and sympathize with the great national feeling, and whose enthusiasm would be becoming in this connection, was guilty of this attack, and carry out their "old fogie" notions.

Mr. BRECKENRIDGE. The gentleman is mistaken in point of fact.

Mr. MARSHALL said that every body could see how this thing occurred. These "old fogies" were such as Mr. W. and one or two others, who were with Judge Douglas. They considered that this article was a common attack upon all of them and their principles, and fatal to the system of "old fogies." This made a bond of union among these gentlemen, and they, stealing that which ought to be the legitimate property of "Young America," brought forward the gentleman from Kentucky to break down and crush the hopes of "Young America," and distract and destroy the whole Democratic party. There was in this House a gentleman from Kentucky, a friend and messmate of Gen. Butler, who, although an older man, was not an older fogie than the young gentleman from Kentucky. (Laughter.) What a tribute, then, it was to "Young America," that when something had to be done bold, adventurous, and dashing, and a mortal assault had to be made, the "old fogies," standing in the background, should put "Young America" to "young blood" when an old and rotten cause leaned on its support.

Mr. BRECKENRIDGE desired to say that the gentleman was mistaken when he supposed his remarks were the result of any arrangement or consultation with the friends of any body. He had not been put forward in this House by any body, and he knew himself that this was not the case. He was thrust forward and put in the breach by men who would remain in the background.

Mr. MARSHALL did not know but what it was the gentleman's interest to take the position he had, because if Gen. Butler should be elected President—and he only alluded to a notice which appeared in all the newspapers of the day, that Gen. Butler had been elected President of the United States, and that office, that of Attorney General of the United States, and that office in the family of the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky, his grandfather having held it. There was nothing extraordinary then, that the gentleman should be elected President of the United States, and that office, that of Attorney General of the United States, and that office in the family of the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky, his grandfather having held it.

Mr. BRECKENRIDGE desired to ask the gentleman from Louisiana whether, in any casual conversation he might have had with the gentleman from Kentucky, he had any intimation that his speech was intended to be an assault upon any body, or a combination of any candidates against one candidate?

Mr. PENN. replied, No; and he desired to ask the gentleman from Kentucky whether he could not yield, but he would anticipate the gentleman's question by saying he never injured Mr. Buchanan; he was not worth killing.

Mr. PENN. wished to ask the gentleman if he did not furnish the article which Mr. Buchanan recently appeared in the "Republican."

Mr. MARSHALL. I did; I did that very thing.

Mr. PENN. You call upon Whigs to assist you.

Mr. MARSHALL said that a Democratic paper, an organ of Gen. Cass in Pennsylvania, contained a number of charges against Mr. Buchanan—a catalogue long enough to occupy a stumpy speaker two hours.

Of the charges were old, for Mr. Buchanan had been long in public life. The Republic had taken the trouble to collate various attacks made upon other Democratic candidates for the Presidency, and as these charges against Mr. Buchanan had not been published, he sent them to the Republic, so as to make it a record of the Republic into which the Democratic party had got itself.

Mr. MARSHALL then replied to that portion of Mr. BRECKENRIDGE's speech which referred to progression, contrasting "Young America" with its progression, and "old fogies" and its beaten candidates with retrogression as its motto. He said that the gentleman from Kentucky, in the whole speech which he had delivered, had not once mentioned the name of "Young America," and he supposed some Democrats would follow it. They would march after their flag—he would; but it would be by the music of the muffled drum. Every one who heard or who knew him would find the gentleman's speech would find in it no statement of the gentleman's conceptions of progress. The gentleman said, "Hunt up some imaginary genius, place him on a new policy, give him 'Young America' for a forum, and let him march on the world upside down." (Mr. M.) could not reason with a proposition like this. He had never consulted Judge Douglas as to what his position was in reference to the two sides of the world, but he had no doubt that he was sound upon that subject. (Laughter.) He had never heard him speak of intentions to disturb the political arrangement of the physical universe, nor did he think that the United States was finished, ready to be fenced in and painted.

Mr. M. then referred to the history of Judge Douglas, and said that he had elements about him for success in a popular contest.

Mr. BELL then addressed the House, advocating the adoption of the bill for the protection of the agricultural and manufacturing interests, an appropriation for Congress for the improvement of Western waters, the passage of the French spoliation bill, and the adoption of a bill embracing the principal provisions of the bill under consideration, with modifications.

Mr. CASS, of Ohio, followed, and spoke an hour in favor of the bill under consideration. He thought that its adoption would do more for the interest and welfare of the Government, more for the happiness and prosperity of the people, than any bill that had ever passed the House.

The committee rose and reported progress.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1852.

IN SENATE.

Mr. HAMILTON asked the indulgence of the Senate to allow him to make an explanation, which being granted, he occupied some thirty minutes in explaining a report he had made to the Committee on Commerce touching the memorial and documents from the State of Maine in relation to certain alleged abuses and grievances suffered by passengers in steam vessels from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He had asked to be discharged from their further consideration on the ground that a clause had been introduced in the bill for the better security of the lives of passengers on board of vessels proposed to be put or in time by steam, and if the reporters had so stated at the time, it would have saved him the necessity of this explanation. He then went on to explain the views of the Committee on Commerce, and to show the effect of the memorial and documents.

Mr. BRADLEY briefly observed that the explanation given by his colleague (Mr. HAMILTON) would relieve him from any further observations on the subject, and he expressed the hope that the subject might receive the early consideration of the Senate.

After the Senate had been engaged for some time in the consideration of private bills.

Mr. UNDERWOOD asked the unanimous consent of the Senate to be allowed to make a report. The courtesy of the Chair having been extended, Mr. U., from the Committee on Public Lands, to which was referred the bill providing for the survey of the public lands in Florida, reported back the same with sundry amendments, which were in favor of the bill. He had thought that the gentleman had too high a regard for veracity to make a declaration so baseless of truth.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi. I ask my colleague if he means to say I have been guilty of falsehood? My language might be so left upon the minds of gentlemen.

Mr. WILCOX. I have spoken boldly, and my language will not bear any misconstruction upon this point.

Mr. BROWN. Do you mean to say that what I said was false?

Mr. WILCOX. If the gentleman says that there is no party in Mississippi in favor of secession, he is false.

Mr. BROWN then struck Mr. WILCOX, and the two immediately clinched each other. Numerous members interposed to separate the gentlemen, which was accomplished in a few moments.

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Mr. WILCOX remarked that he had been informed that he was to be devoured this morning by his friend—for such he hailed him, and such he was—but the storm had passed. The missiles were weak, and had fallen harmless at his feet.

His colleague had said that the secession party in Mississippi were a chivalry, and that there was no party there in favor of secession. He had thought that the gentleman had too high a regard for veracity to make a declaration so baseless of truth.

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